

REMARKS

This application has been carefully considered in connection with the Examiner's Action. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the following.

Claims 1 and 14 have been amended to more clearly distinguish the claims over the cited art. Claims 2, 3, 9-10 and 20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 4, 11, 15, 17 and 21 have each been rewritten into independent form incorporating all of the limitations of the base and any intervening claims. Claim 13 has been amended to depend upon a pending claim. Claim 18 has been amended to provide sufficient antecedent for all the limitations thereof. Claim 19 has been amended to correct the dependency thereof. Finally, new Claims 23-25 have been added.

The Applicants kindly thank the Examiner for courteously indicating that Claims 4-6, 11-12, 15-17, 19 and 21-22 are merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim but that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form incorporating all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this amendment, the Applicants have rewritten Claims 4, 11, 15, 17 and 21 into independent claims which incorporate all of the limitations of the base and any intervening claims. The undersigned also conducted a review of the claims of this application. During this review, it was discovered that the dependency of Claim 19 erroneously referenced Claim 11 and not Claim 14. For all of the foregoing reasons, therefore, the Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to Claims 4-6, 11-12, 15-17, 19 and 21-22 and the allowance of Claims 4-6, 11-12, 15-17 and 21-22.

Claim 18 stands rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. More specifically, the Examiner properly noted that the limitation "each direct memory access device" lacked sufficient antecedent basis. In response, the Applicants have amended Claim 18 so that each and every limitation thereof enjoys proper antecedent basis. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 18 under the second paragraph of Section 112. Furthermore, as Claim 18 depends on Claim 15 and as the Examiner has indicated that Claim 15 is allowable, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 18 is also allowable.

Claims 1-3 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Skapura *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,204,938 (hereafter Skapura) in view of Morton, U.S. Patent No. 5,822,606 (hereafter Morton), Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Skapura and Morton and further in view of Swoboda *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,643,803 (hereafter Swoboda), Claims 9-10 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morton, Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morton in view of Swoboda and Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Morton. In response, the Applicants respectfully traverse the various rejections of Claims 1-3, 7-10, 13-14 and 20 and instead submit that Claims 1, 7-8 and 13-14, as above amended, as well as newly added Claims 23-25, are neither taught nor suggested over the art of record. Accordingly, the reconsideration and withdrawal of the various rejections of Claims 1-3, 7-10, 13-14 and 20 and the allowance of Claims 1, 7-8, 13-14 and 23-25, as above amended, are respectfully requested.

The prior art has been carefully considered but neither teaches nor suggests Applicant's invention as defined in Claims 1, 7-10 and 13-14 and 23-25, as above amended. In rejecting original Claims 1-3, 7-10, 13-14 and 20 as anticipated by and/or obvious in view of various combinations of Skapura, Morton and Swoboda, the Examiner cited Skapura as teaching a data processing system which included a plurality of digital signal processors (10a, 10b, 10c, 10d), a host interface (26, 27) coupled to the plurality of digital signal processors, a plurality of memory devices (17a, 17b, 17c, 17d) each associated with and coupled to one of the digital signal processors (and each coupled to the host processor and a memory bus (23) coupling each of the memory devices with the host processor interface. Examiner's Action dated June 28, 2004, page 2, line 19 through page 3, line 11. However, as clearly revealed in Fig. 3 of Skapura, the bus 23 couples interface logic 26 only to digital signal processors (DSPs) 10a, 10b, 10c, 10d. In turn, each DSP 10a, 10b, 10c, 10d is discretely coupled to the corresponding DRAM 17a, 17b, 17c, 17d by address and data buses.

In contrast with the structure disclosed in Skapura, Applicants' invention, as defined by Claims 1, 7-10, 13-14 and 23-25 is directed to an integrated circuit (and associated method of operating at least two DSPs on the integrated circuit) comprised of a host processor interface, a common memory bus coupled to the host processor interface, a plurality of memory devices coupled to the common memory bus and a plurality of DSPs, each associated with and coupled to a corresponding one of said plurality of memory devices. Thus, in contrast with Skapura's teaching of a bus 23 which couples a bus interface 26 to each and every one of a plurality of DSPs 10a-d which, in turn, are coupled to corresponding ones of a plurality of DRAMs 17a-d by

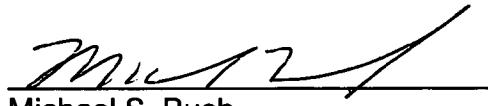
discrete address and data buses, the Applicants have disclosed and claimed an integrated circuit in which the common memory bus couples the host processor interface to each and every one of the plurality of memory devices which, in turn, are coupled to corresponding ones of the DSPs.

As the structure of Applicants' claimed multi-processor system and method is entirely distinct from that disclosed in Skapura, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 7-10, 13-14 and 23-25, as above amended, are neither taught nor suggested by Skapura, either alone or in combination with Morgan and/or Swoboda. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the various rejections of Claims 1-3, 7-10, 13-14 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a), the allowance of Claims 1, 7-10, 13-14 and 23-25 and the passing of this application to issue.

This application is now in condition for allowance. A prompt Notice to that effect is, therefore, earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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